



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 27, 2006  
Week Ending: November 26, 2006  
CWP WA-CW4806

## Winter Set in with Snow and Ice, Across the State

There were 1.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Temperatures continued to decline as snow covered most of the state with icy conditions in western Washington. Christmas tree producers continued to harvest in the harsh weather conditions and U-Cut farms were in full swing. Winter wheat received increased moisture levels from rain, and the snow should provide a good cover and increased soil moisture. Commercial holly growers reported excellent sales.

## Livestock

Range and pasture conditions declined to 8% very poor, 16% poor, 19% fair and 57% good. Cattle producers continued supplemental feeding of hay and grain.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	1.5
Last Week	2.4

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	7	60	32
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	NA	NA	NA	NA
Subsoil	2	26	71	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	NA	NA	NA	NA
Irrigation Water	0	5	92	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hay & Roughage	12	25	54	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Emerged	99	98	95	98
Corn Harvested	99	98	100	96

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	34	55	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	90	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\*Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark:** The week was wet before the holiday weekend.

**Grays Harbor:** The distant whine of power saws echoed across the rural landscape as Christmas tree growers rushed to fill wholesale orders. Unseasonably high rainfall throughout the month of November will mark this year as one of the more challenging for Christmas tree harvest. Growers had to deal with muddy harvest roads and soft field conditions. Many ag producers were still cleaning up debris after last week's major windstorm.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Precipitation for the month was generally at record levels throughout the area. In spite of the record rainfall, flood damage has been limited primarily to the Cowlitz river valley and a few other flood prone areas. Wholesale Christmas tree harvest was turning the last corner as the U-Cut harvest begins.

**Mason:** Precipitation of 5.1 inches received during the past week brought the monthly total for November to 21.2 inches! Over the weekend slush-heavy snow was received. Producers were preparing for freezing weather and poor traveling conditions around the area. The main activities were keeping animals well fed and as comfortable as possible.

**Pierce/South King:** Expect freezing temperatures this week.

**Pierce/South King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Most crops in the South Puget Sound area have been harvested. With the frost, snow, and rain--producers will have a hard time getting out into their fields. There has been no report of crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 53 degrees. Precipitation of 0.5 of an inch was recorded at the Extension Center in Mount Vernon. Potato harvest was still underway. However, with all the rain and snow many harvesters were parked for most of the week. With the snow and cold temperatures, many farmers were concerned with crops that were in the ground--although the snow cover should protect most of the crops.

**Thurston:** Rain showers throughout the week limited ag producers to inside chores. The one exception was Christmas tree growers who braved the elements to continue harvesting for wholesale orders. The majority of Choose and Cut Christmas tree farms opened the day after Thanksgiving. Forage producers reported cooler temperatures have resulted in increased sales to livestock owners. The record breaking rainfall this month has resulted in standing water on numerous agricultural fields, as soils were at field capacity. Commercial holly growers reported excellent sales of both cut products and wreaths.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Conditions were very wet.

## Central

**Chelan:** Temperatures were cold, and snow was received. There was no orchard activity.

**Chelan/Douglas:** All fieldwork was concluded for the year. Significant amount of snow was received in the higher elevations. Cold temperatures were experienced, which was normal for this time of year.

**Kittitas:** Weather conditions included cold temperatures, snow, and rain. Tall fescue stockpiles in pastures were still usable.

**Klickitat:** At least eight inches of rain has fallen this month in most areas of the county. Over the weekend,

four plus inches of snow was received with temperatures in the 20's. These weather conditions will impede getting cow-calf pairs down from the mountains. Fruit trees were being pruned.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** All fieldwork was complete. The county received a significant amount of snow in the higher elevations.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from seven degrees above normal to five degrees below normal, with 0.42 of an inch of precipitation. No crop damage has been reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat remained unchanged as the crop was in mostly fair condition. Top and sub-soil moisture also remained unchanged as just enough precipitation was collected to maintain current conditions. Additional precipitation will be needed to improve soil moisture conditions.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather conditions were wet, windy, and sunny all week, followed by a welcomed snowfall on Sunday.

**Asotin:** Rain and snow fell during the week. Most fall crops were in good condition heading into the winter.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Additional rain helped replenish soil moisture, with many areas receiving double the normal amount for November. This was a welcome relief from the past five months of below normal rainfall. There were still a few areas in Asotin County with below normal amounts of rainfall.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat remained unchanged as the crop was in mostly fair condition. Top and sub-soil moisture improved with measurable precipitation and was mostly adequate.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Snow was received and should provide soil moisture and a good cover for fall planted crops.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Very little fieldwork was done over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Some plowing

continued, but for the most part everyone had their tractors put away and were working on them in the shop next to the fire. Snow and rain were received during the week. About 0.75 of an inch of rain was received on Wednesday. Cold weather predicted for this week will tighten things up and stop the growth of grain. The covering of snow should help protect the winter wheat. Feeding of hay to cattle began throughout the counties.

**Stevens:** The county received rain on and off throughout the week. Snow began to fall Saturday evening and continued through Sunday. Most cattle producers started feeding hay to cattle.

**Walla Walla:** Light rain was received on and off during the week. Some fall dormant grass seeding took place. The temperature cooled off with the windy weather. Grain and soil moisture looked good. Producers were transitioning from fall feeding to winter feeding. Most ranchers had adequate hay supplies, but very little hay was available for sale.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Weather conditions were cold and windy throughout the week. There were frequent rain events all week. Light snow was received in the higher elevations.

**Whitman:** Rain continued to come in record amounts as the precipitation went from below normal to far above normal for the 2007 crop year.

## Weekly Weather Statistics

**November 27, 2006**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	27	54	41	-2	0	0	0	0	1.41	0.19	6	11.09	1.43	115	42
Everett	32	51	40	-3	0	-1	0	0	2.26	1.04	5	12.39	2.95	131	39
Hoquiam	34	53	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	3.97	1.45	7	23.59	5.39	130	42
Kelso	32	55	44	2	1	-6	0	0	2.73	1.07	7	15.74	3.92	133	38
Olympia	32	53	42	2	0	-3	0	0	3.86	1.83	7	21.09	7.59	156	39
Sea-Tac	33	52	42	-2	0	-7	0	0	2.75	1.28	5	17.56	7.45	174	36
Shelton	30	51	40	-4	0	-6	0	0	4.93	2.34	7	29.72	12.77	175	40
Tacoma	34	54	42	-2	0	-1	0	0	2.01	0.50	5	13.77	3.41	133	31
Vancouver	36	58	46	4	3	-2	0	0	2.32	0.81	5	14.38	4.19	141	37
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	27	54	37	4	0	-5	0	0	0.58	0.26	5	2.76	0.70	134	23
Stampede Pass	22	43	30	4	0	0	0	0	3.73	0.66	7	38.46	18.14	189	44
Wenatchee	25	50	36	2	0	0	0	0	0.38	0.09	1	2.47	0.66	136	17
Yakima AP	20	56	37	2	0	0	0	0	0.41	0.13	4	1.92	0.18	110	17
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	27	50	37	6	0	0	0	0	0.66	-0.04	5	4.82	0.17	104	28
Deer Park	22	45	34	3	0	0	0	0	0.88	0.19	5	7.03	2.85	168	31
Spokane AP	26	50	36	5	0	0	0	0	1.62	1.06	6	5.52	1.97	155	27
<b>E. CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	21	50	36	2	0	0	0	-1	0.28	0.00	4	1.80	0.13	108	20
Moses Lake	22	51	37	3	0	0	0	-1	0.29	0.01	5	1.49	-0.18	89	26
Quincy	20	49	37	3	0	-1	0	0	0.33	0.03	3	2.11	0.23	112	20
Ritzville	26	50	38	5	0	-2	0	0	0.68	0.26	4	3.91	1.19	144	22
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	25	58	41	2	0	-7	0	-1	0.28	0.00	4	1.69	0.10	106	20
Pasco	26	59	42	3	0	-7	0	0	0.41	0.13	4	1.95	0.15	108	24
Pullman	23	51	38	4	0	0	0	0	1.22	0.53	7	5.67	0.97	121	30
Whitman Miss.	26	61	42	4	0	-7	0	0	0.65	0.18	4	3.17	-0.10	97	29
<b>ID Panhandle</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	27	50	37	2	0	0	0	0	0.87	0.03	4	3.50	-2.12	62	20
Lewiston ID	26	58	43	5	2	2	0	0	0.82	0.54	5	3.27	0.60	122	24

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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